

(c) whether the Government are considering any joint R&D projects with the C-DOT in upstaging the fast changing technological advances in Telecom; and

(d) if so, the details of such areas and its collaboration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) C-DOT performance, progress and activities are monitored and evaluated periodically by its Project Board, Steering Committee and Governing Council. During the last seven years, following evaluations have also been carried out by various Statutory Bodies:

1. Internal Departmental Review Committee, set up in May, 1986 under the Chairmanship of Shri V.M. Sundaram, Member (TD).
2. Internal Departmental Review Committee, set up in January, 1988 under the Chairmanship of Shri V.M. Sundaram, member (TD).
3. Nambiar Committee set up in January, 1990.
4. CAG in January, 1990.

(c) C-DOT itself is a Government funded organisation, hence does not arise.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer (c) above.

Areas identified for promotion of Food Processing Industries

6161. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified areas for promotion of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have received investment plans from the foreign investors and NRIs for this sector and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHARGOMANGO):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Food Processing Industries except for beer and Potable alcohol and some other products are now identified as the priority industries. Ministry has identified processed fruits and vegetable products, meat and poultry processing, deep sea fishing and fish processing, modernisation of rice hullers, soya based products and cereal/grain based products etc. as the thrust areas for development.

(c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telegraph Review Committee

6162. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telegraph Review Committee has laid special emphasis on providing built-in safeguards against the misuse of the provision in the Telegraph Act meant to protect 'national security' interests through telephone tapping; and

(b) if so, the other suggestions of the Committee and the Government's reaction thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Committee has been constituted to review all provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 including the section dealing with national security and to recommend suitable amendments. The Report is awaited.

Government Delegations sent Abroad

6163. DR. KARTIKESWARPATRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government delegations sent abroad during 1990-91; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for this purpose, delegation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Multinational Companies in Steel Sector

6164. SHRIM. RAMANNARAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel industry is making profits;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow multinational companies to enter the steel industry in India; and

(c) if so, the details and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Most of the primary producers are making profits. In the secondary steel sector, the position varies from unit to unit.

(b) and (c). In the new Industrial Policy, pig iron, ferro-alloys and sponge iron including pelletisation have been included in the list of high priority industries in order to encourage the growth of these industries. In respect of such industries there is a provision for automatic approval of investment upto 51% foreign equity provided the foreign equity covers the foreign exchange required for import of capital goods. So far as other industries in the iron and steel sector are concerned, prior approval of Government is required for foreign equity participation.

[*Translation*]

Bauxite Smelting Furnaces

6165. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to increase the capacity of bauxite smelting furnaces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for attaining self-sufficiency in regard to aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). A proposal to increase the capacity of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been initiated. The details are given below:-

| <i>Unit</i> | <i>From</i> | <i>To</i> |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Bauxite Mine *TPY | Million | 2.4 |
| | | 4.8 |